Institute for advance research in Science and Technology in Assam

516. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position of the proposed Institute for Advanced Research in Science and Technology in Assam;

(b) whether the Task Force set up by the Government of Assam has submitted its report to the Central Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c) The task force set up by the Government of Assam had submitted its report to Central Government for consideration and financial support.

An Inter-Ministerial meeting was held on November 4, 1991 involving various scientific agencies|departments of the Centre, representatives of the Planning Commission, Home Ministry as well as the Government of Assam. It was decided that the S&T activities in Assam are to be enhanced through the existing Institute for Advanced study in Science and Technology and for this the resources required should be projected by the Assam Government appropriately in their 8th Five Year Plan, for consideration by the Planning Commission.

Assam Government is expected to take necessary follow-up action in consultation with the Planning Commission on the decision taken by the Inter-Ministerial group.

Pesticides contract in drinking water

517. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that so far no standards have been laid down for pesticides in water for drinking of farm use as is the case in countries such as USA, UK etc.;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and action taken or proposed to be taken under the scheme for promotion of science to protect consumer interest;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in USA the USEPA is active in such matters and the US General Accounting Office also oversees independently USA GAO|RCED—92—34 December, 1991 and reports directly to the House of Representatives;

(d) how many samples from wells, rivers, lakes etc. were drawn during 1990-91 in the country; and what pesticides were tested and whether these were in line with USEPA minimum standards; and

(e) if so, the details thereof indicating the work plan for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA):

(a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Building of Satellite Launch Vehicle

518. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Indian Express dated the 26th March, 1992 under the caption 'ISRO to build satellite launch vehicle', stating that the Indian Space Research Organisation is to build a new GSLV rocket;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the targets fixed for the purpose; and

(c) by when the country would be able to launch its satellite through indigenously built rocket?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Project to de-